

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LONDON 02388 141927Z

53

ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 MC-02 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /059 W

----- 039693

R 141843Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8310

INFO AMCONSUL HAMILTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

UNCLAS LONDON 02388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: NASA LASER RANGING STATIONS AT GRAND TURK AND

BERMUDA

REF: STATE 7951

1. BRITISH ARE STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH SAFETY PRECAUTIONS THAT NASA PLANS FOR LASER STATIONS ON GRAND TURK AND BERMUDA. BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF FEB. 13 LETTER FROM FCO (DAVID, DEFENSE DEPT.) WHICH DESCRIBES ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES UK WISHES TO SEE ADOPTED BEFORE LASERS OPERATE. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR US RESPONSE ASAP.

2. "THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS OF 6 AND 14 JANUARY AND FOR THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IN THEM ON THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS THAT NASA PLAN FOR THE LASER STATIONS ON GRAND TURK AND BERMUDA.

"WE ARE HOWEVER STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE AIR SAFETY ANGLE, ESPECIALLY ABOUT POSSIBLE LASER DAMAGE TO THE EYES OF AIR CREWS OR PASSENGERS. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE IMPRACTICAL TO PROHIBIT MOVEMENT IN THE TWO AREAS DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE LASERS ARE IN OPERATION. WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY START OPERATING

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 02388 141927Z

THE LASERS.

"WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY ABOUT THE LASERS BEING OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE RADAR AND WOULD PREFER THE TWO SYSTEMS TO BE LINKED, SO THAT THE LASERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY RENDERED INOPERABLE WHEN THE RADAR DETECTS AN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE SCANNING ZONE. WE SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR A FIRM ASSURANCE ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF RADAR TARGET DETECTION. THE SORT OF SYSTEM WE HAVE IN MIND WOULD INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING:-

(A) A LOCK-OUT RADAR WHICH WOULD AUTOMATICALLY SWITCH OFF THE LASER EQUIPMENT ON DETECTION OF A TARGET APPROACHING THE HAZARD AREA; IT WOULD HAVE A RELIABILITY OF TARGET DETECTION OF NOT LESS THAN 99.5 PERCENT FOR A MINIMUM TARGET SIZE OF ONE SQUARE METRE, AND FOR TARGET SPEED RANGES APPLICABLE TO CURRENT AND FUTURE CIVIL AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM GROUND/SEA LEVEL UPWARDS (IF APPROPRIATE, THE REQUIREMENT WOULD ALSO COVER GLIDERS AND MANNED BALLOONS).

(B) THE RADAR WOULD INCORPORATE A FAIL-SAFE MONITORING SYSTEM TO PROTECT IT AGAINST MALFUNCTION OF THE TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER AND THE RADAR WOULD BE CHECKED PRIOR TO OPERATION AGAINST A SPECIFIC TARGET.

"WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER YOU CAN AGREE TO INSTALL A SYSTEM ON THESE LINES, OFFERING A SIMILAR DEGREE OF RELIABILITY, AND FOR YOUR ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING ALL RELEVANT WARNING NOTICES TO MARINERS AND AIRMEN."
SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, TEXT, LASERS, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON02388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0088
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaabloh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NASA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 7951
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NASA LASER RANGING STATIONS AT GRAND TURK AND BERMUDA
TAGS: TSPA, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006